

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 34, No. 15

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

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Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Hit the Road!

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abound in Europe

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In the mountains with "Le Tour"

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Travel safe & smart

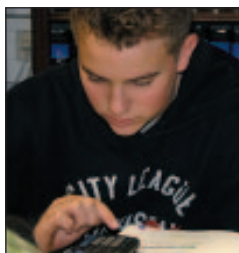
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**Middle schools
coming to Stuttgart**

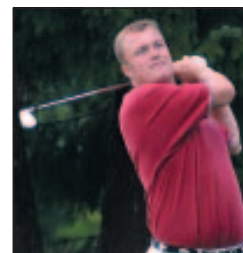
Stuttgart's sixth, seventh and eighth graders are slated to have schools of their own starting in the 2006-2007 school year.



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**Europe's best tee off
in Kornwestheim**

Stuttgart's Eric Smith is edged by Jeffrey Hallauer of Darmstadt for the 2005 Army Europe Golf Championship.



Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

Bonnie, the grocery manager at the Patch Commissary, for her enduring commitment to outstanding customer service. Bonnie is always helpful, and never fails to greet customers with a smile on her face. Though she treats everyone this way, you can't help but feel special – and appreciated – after an encounter with her.

The 6th ASG Directorate of Public Works, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and everyone else who was involved in the renovation of the Kelley Club. I didn't realize how badly the old place needed a facelift until I visited the "new & improved" club for the first time. Thank you all for providing such an excellent space here on Kelley.

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, for the support and leadership she has provided during her time as commander of the 6th Area Support Group. Col. Bonéy-Harris, we wish you continued success in your future assignments!

Marco Spellacy and the rest of the crew at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim, for hosting an excellent Army Europe Golf Championship July 19 to 21. From the moment the players arrived on the course until the end of the awards presentation, the event was first-class (and first choice) all the way. Great job by all who were involved.

(For more about the tournament see page 15.)

The staff of Böblingen Elementary School, for taking the time during their end of the school year dinner to thank those of us in the Panzer mailroom for our support. This and many other expressions of appreciation by the members of the Panzer community mean a great deal to all of us in the mailroom.

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

Golf great's most lasting legacy: The grace with which he lost

By Hugh C. McBride

Commentary

Over the course of Jack Nicklaus's 44-year professional career – and especially in the run-up to his July 14 retirement – hundreds of writers scribbled thousands of words in an attempt to capture the essence of what made "The Golden Bear" one of the all-time greats.

I think I can do it in two: loser and quitter.

If you're even remotely familiar with the world of professional golf, you know that the word "Nicklaus" is synonymous with success. Seventy-three tournament victories. Eighteen majors. Eight times the tour's leading money winner. Five times the PGA's player of the year. Two times a magazine's selection as player of the century. And the list goes on.

Now, I'm not arguing that these accomplishments aren't impressive. But as one who believes that "exceptional" isn't necessarily synonymous with "great," I've always been more impressed with the statistics that appear in the smaller print on Jack's resume – and the statements that don't show up there at all.

For example, en route to amassing those 73 tour victories, Nicklaus finished second 58 times, and third on 36 occasions. Ten of those "almost wins" came as cruelly as the golf gods allow – by losing playoffs after tying for the lead over four days of competition.

Nineteen times, he was runner-up in a major (meaning that he not only won more majors than any other golfer, he also experienced the exquisite frustration of coming in second more times than anyone else ever has).

Long before the marketing minds at Nike created the ridiculous "You don't win silver – you lose gold" slogan, Americans had been decidedly obsessed with first place.

Football coach Vince Lombardi is said to have opined that winning isn't only the priority – it's all there is.

To this day, the silver medals from the 1972 Olympic basketball tournament remain in a vault in Switzerland because, after the first international loss it had ever experienced, the U.S. team ducked the award ceremony rather than stand one rung below their Soviet opponents.

Even "heroes" aren't exempt, as one-time Boston beloved Bill Buckner can attest, having spent nearly two decades as a Beantown pariah after letting a crucial ground ball trickle between his legs during the 1986 World Series.

This list, sadly, also goes on and on.

But the man widely regarded as the greatest golfer – and one of the game's most intense competitors – lost by tantalizing margins 94 times, and left no tales of histrionics in his wake.

No tossed clubs. No berated caddies. No kicked dogs or abandoned fans. Just extra swings on the practice range, added focus on "next time."

"He has always been the consummate professional both in victory and defeat," Tom Watson told the BBC after Nicklaus's final round July 15.

Watson, who played that final round alongside his longtime friend and professional nemesis, admitted having to fight back tears of his own as the two walked down the 18th fairway on the historic Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland. The thunderous applause that followed Nicklaus throughout his farewell round was, Watson said, "just a very small appreciation that the people around the world have for him and the way he has conducted himself."

[Side note to all Randy Moss wannabes who may be reading this: I was in that throng on 18, and I can tell you that I have never experienced a crowd's roar as loud as that one – you felt it thundering in your chest before you heard it echoing in your ears. All for an old man who didn't even make the cut. Maybe "the way he has conducted himself" still means something after all.]

If anyone should know about Nicklaus's ability to transcend defeat it is Watson. In 1977, he and Nicklaus engaged in one of golf's great duels, over the final 36 holes of The Open, which was held that year in Turnberry, Scotland.

Tied after the first two rounds, the two carded matching 65s over the third 18. Nicklaus took an early 3-shot lead in the final round, and was up by two as late as the 12th hole.

Watson caught him, then birdied 17 to take a one-shot lead. On the final hole, Nicklaus drained a 35-foot putt for



Hugh C. McBride

Aren't athletic opponents supposed to hate each other? Jack Nicklaus, right, and Tom Watson walk arm-in-arm up the 18th fairway July 12 in St. Andrews.

birdie to momentarily tie the match – but Watson had chipped to within three feet, and his ensuing birdie handed Nicklaus a defeat that some would consider career-crushing.

Nicklaus's response? He put his arm around Watson, and victor and vanquished walked off the course together.

Hold that image in your mind for the next time you see a Little League dad berating his kid for not hating his opponents enough.

But though Jack's response to "losing" the 1977 British Open is astounding, perhaps the most amazing thing about it is that it's not his most memorable victory-denying gesture.

For that, we have to wind the clock back another eight years, to 1969 and the 18th hole of England's Royal Birkdale.

Having holed a four-foot par putt on the final hole of the final match of that year's Ryder Cup competition, Nicklaus left Britain's Tony Jacklin with a knee-rattling two-footer to halve their match and tie the competition (which the U.S. team had won 14 of the previous 17 times).

So, with a huge win – not to mention the extension of "national dominance" – on the line, what does Our American Hero do? In what has been hailed as one of the greatest acts of sportsmanship in the history of the game (but which would never get him a shoe deal today), Nicklaus conceded the hole – telling Jacklin to pick his ball up, and causing the Ryder Cup competition to end in a tie for the first time in its 42-year history.

To clarify: He quit the match and accepted a draw rather than risk having a win "handed to him" by his opponent.

Think about that the next time you see some soccer mom screaming at her kid for having the audacity to stop and help up someone in the wrong color jersey.

"Golf will always be more about losing than winning," Nicklaus once said, "and it is how you deal with this fact that will define you."

It's easy for those who have never competed to reserve their adulation for the most recent winners – or the most awe-inspiring victories. And it is just as simple for writers who have never felt the sting of loss to script paeans to the "moral victories" that are found only in defeat.

But when a man whose very livelihood depends upon his spot atop the leaderboard can treat defeat with such dispassion – well, this is as rare as it is wondrous. And when this same man is not only one of his game's fiercest competitors, but also one of its all-time greats – well, this is truly the stuff of which legends are made.

When Jack Nicklaus walked off the 18th green July 15, he left a record of victories that will be difficult to surpass.

But he left a legacy in defeat that will stand forever.

THE CITIZEN

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www.stuttgart.army.mil



6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris and U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater III prepare to cut the ribbon that will officially reopen the renovated Old Craig Village neighborhood July 27 on Patch Barracks.

Community gets first look at renovated neighborhood on Patch

Story & photos by
Hugh C. McBride

As the Army transforms the way Soldiers train, prepare and fight, it is also committing considerable effort – and resources – into enhancing the quality of life of the service members and families who live on its installations.

One of the local benefits of this effort was unveiled July 27 on Patch Barracks during a dedication ceremony and open house that celebrated the completion of a neighborhood renovation project in Old Craig Village.

'Partnership works'

Working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and contractor HSG Technischer Service GmbH, the 6th Area Support Group was able to provide 110 improved housing units for area families, said Carl Pritchard, director of the 6th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works.

Instead of simply upgrading individual buildings, Pritchard said, the "whole neighborhood revitalization project" concept resulted in a dramatic improvement of an entire area.

Eric Kevitz, who supervised the project for HSG, said the results included not only "wonderful" apartments but also a stronger relationship between host-nation companies and U.S. military organizations.

"This was a great project," he said. "Partnership works."

'Taking care of our families is simply the right thing to do.'

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris
6th Area Support Group

Top-to-bottom improvements

The project, which progressed from the drawing board to the open house in just over two years, included the renovation of 10 residential buildings, each containing 11 apartments.

Highlights of the upgrades include the following:

- New sprinkler systems in all buildings.
- 60 three-bedroom apartments (153 square meters each).
- 30 four-bedroom apartments (174.6 square meters each).
- 20 four-bedroom apartments in former attic spaces (187.54 square meters each).
- Laundry spaces (including washer and dryer) in all apartments
- Two bathrooms in all renovated units.
- New light fixtures, wiring, fire alarms and intercoms.
- New water, heating and sewer systems – part of a comprehensive improvement of area infrastructure.
- Outdoor enhancements including roads, parking areas, patio/grill areas, shrubs and trees.



It looks nice, but will my stuff all fit? Community members take a detailed look at one of the four-bedroom units in what used to be an attic during the July 27 open house on Patch Barracks.

Family support

During the ceremony, two military leaders cited caring about community members as the driving force behind the project.

"The Corps of Engineers greatly appreciates the opportunity to enhance the quality of life on our military installations," said Col. Margaret Burcham, commander of the Corps' Europe District.

To 6th ASG Commander Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, the project was also about peace of mind.

"Our service members work so hard," she said, "and this lets them know that their families are living in a nice, secure place. Taking care of our families is simply the right thing to do."

News & Notes

6th ASG command change

• All community members are welcome to attend the 6th Area Support Group command change ceremony Aug. 5, 10 a.m. on Kelley Barracks's Cooper Field. Leadership of the 6th ASG will officially pass from Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris to Col. Kenneth Juergens. An invitation-only reception will follow in the Kelley Community Club.

• The parking lots in front of the Kelley Club and the Kelley Theatre and across from the Kelley Fitness Center will be closed Aug. 5, 10 a.m., and will re-open shortly after the ceremony. During this time, traffic will be re-routed appropriately.

• The Kelley Club will be closed Aug. 4 (all day) and Aug. 5 (until 4:30 p.m.). The Kelley Gymnasium – which is the inclement weather site for the command change – will close Aug. 4, 5 p.m.

National Night Out Aug. 6

The Stuttgart military community's third annual National Night Out celebration is Aug. 6, 2 to 5 p.m., in Patch Barracks's Washington Square.

Sponsored by the 6th ASG Office of the Provost Marshal, Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program and Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, the event will highlight drug, crime and violence prevention. Demonstrations, displays and refreshments are all free of charge.

For more information call 430-5560/civ. 0711-680-5560.

RB Chapel hosts block party

The Robinson Barracks Chapel will host a block party to welcome community newcomers Aug. 7, 1 to 5 p.m., in the gazebo outside the RB Community Club.

The event will feature community information, free food and drinks and games for children. For more information call 420-5000/civ. 0711-820-5000.

For details call Jacquie Waskiewicz at 07054-928-955.

Area closures & changes

• The **Stuttgart Optometry Clinic** will move from Patch Barracks to Panzer Kaserne (building 2966-B) Aug. 8.

• The phone number for the **TMS Help Desk** has changed. The new number is 430-HELP (430-4357/civ. 0711-680-4357).

• Stuttgart's **civilian veterinarian** will be unavailable Aug. 15 to 26. To obtain a health certificate during this time make an appointment with the military veterinarian by calling 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681.

RB Elementary parent meeting

The Robinson Barracks Elementary School's parent orientation meeting is Aug. 15 in the school gymnasium.

For details call 420-7112/civ. 0711-819-7112.

EEO counselors needed

The 6th ASG Equal Employment Opportunity office is accepting applications for collateral-duty EEO counselor positions. Volunteers will complete a five-day certification training program Aug. 8 to 12 on Patch Barracks.

For more information or to apply call 421-2649/civ. 0711-729-2649.

Powerlifting tourney on Kelley

The Kelley Fitness Center will host a powerlifting tournament Aug. 13, starting at noon. Participants must be 18 or older (no high school students) and have a U.S. identification card.

For more information call 430-4512/civ. 0711-680-4512 or e-mail steven.sanders@us.army.mil.

POSH training now online

The Installation Management Agency Europe Region has announced a new online Prevention of Sexual Harassment training program.

This online refresher course supplements the mandatory classroom training but does not replace it.

To access the training visit www.ima.army.mil/europe/index.asp and click the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Training link. Upon completion of the training, users are reminded to select the name of their organization and print the certificate to receive credit.

For more information call the Equal Employment Office at 421-2684/2649/civ. 0711-729-2684/2649.

Middle schools coming to Stuttgart

Robinson Barracks, Panzer Kaserne to house 6th to 8th graders in new 'schools within schools' beginning in 2006

6th ASG Public Affairs Office Release

Department of Defense Dependents Schools will soon be making the move to middle schools in Stuttgart.

If the required funding is secured, Robinson Barracks Elementary School and Böblingen Elementary School on Panzer Kaserne will each house a "school within a school" comprised of sixth, seventh and eighth graders starting with the 2006-07 school year.

Plans call for Patch High School to become a more traditional high school, serving students in ninth to 12th grade, while Patch, RB and Böblingen Elementary schools will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

To signify the mutual support of this major change to local schools, a Memorandum of Agreement was coordinated and signed by the 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris and DoDDS Bavaria District Superintendent Dr. Ronald McIntire. The agreement specifies both the need and the benefit of the restructuring plan, and places heavy emphasis upon the positive educational impacts that are expected to result from a transition to the new concept.

The agreement acknowledges that all changes are contingent on the receipt of adequate funding to support the plan, something that McIntire said he believes will become a reality.

McIntire told a group of parents and teachers in the Patch High School gym June 16 that funds should be in place within the next few months and that "we're going to make the move; it's going to happen."

Reasons for change

One reason for the change, McIntire said, is to create schools in the Stuttgart area using the Department of Defense Education Activity "middle school model," which he said is a DoDDS priority.

He also said that the new schools will offer a richer educational environment for 6th, 7th and 8th graders by offering smaller class sizes and a more focused teaching staff.

"Based on considerable feedback from our DoDDS representatives and others who have been involved in the process, it appears that the learning environment for these grades can be enhanced by making the change," said Joseph Moscone, deputy to the 6th ASG Commander.

"But the input and communication from parents must continue to ensure this is done

New structure for Stuttgart schools

If all goes as planned, the school system in Stuttgart will be organized in the following manner for the start of the 2006/2007 school year:

Robinson Barracks	Panzer Kaserne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary school (grades K to 5) Middle school (grades 6 to 8) Approximately 260 new students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary school (grades K to 5) Middle school (grades 6 to 8) Approximately 100 new students.
<h3>Patch Barracks</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary school (grades K to 5) High school (grades 9 to 12). Classrooms currently used for 7th and 8th grades will be reallocated for high school use, allowing for additional learning space and smaller class sizes. 	

right," he added.

In addition, Moscone noted, other benefits will result from this change as well – including easing parking constraints on Patch and ensuring that space- available students will be enrolled at all schools.

"The most important issue is the education of our students," Moscone said, "but we are also very aware of other community impacts this change will have, and they are mostly very favorable."

"The bottom line is that this is a DoDDS concept and proposal that we will continue to monitor closely," Moscone said. "Many issues will need to be worked out, including the structure of the new programs, funding, and logistics, all that could impact actual timelines of this concept down the road."

The 6th ASG command group, and senior leaders within U.S. European Command have supported DoDDS on this issue, although communication and dialogue with parents, teachers, and others on how to implement the changes remain top priorities.

Officials said they believed the June 16 meeting was a good first step in communicating the planned changes.

Educational improvements

Currently, seventh and eighth graders at PHS share space – and teachers – with students in grades nine to 12.

Not only is PHS overcrowded, McIntire told the meeting attendees, but "the seventh and eighth graders don't often get the attention we'd like them to get."

Restructuring the grades in accord with the middle school model, and realigning teaching positions to create one corps of educa-

tors dedicated to those grades, will bring benefits as well, he said.

Arranging the educational environment so that teachers can focus on middle school age children will help address the areas of academic difficulty that many students experience when transitioning from childhood into their teenage years.

Teachers will be better able to focus on the remediation of weaknesses among their students through working as an educational team, and stretch the envelope of possibilities for students who are already high achievers, McIntire said.

Community impact

Another reason for creating the new middle schools, McIntire said, is so that students who fall into categories two and three (dependents of contractors, for instance, who are currently allowed to enroll only on a space-available basis) will be assured a slot.

When the 2005/2006 school year began last September, students who fell into this category were not allowed to start school on time, because the schools first had to assure that there was enough room for category one students (military dependents, for whom space is required).

As many military jobs switch from active-duty to contractor or general service, McIntire noted, there could be an increase in category two and three students.

While the parents of these students are considered mission-essential, he said, it is still DoDDS policy to give military dependents first priority. Under the new scenario, McIntire said, students in categories one, two and three can all be accommodated.

Transition challenges

Attendees at the June 16 meeting voiced many concerns about how the change would affect the students.

Questions addressed busing, the ability of seventh and eighth graders to continue participating in interscholastic individual sports, academic opportunities and the middle school curriculum.

Busing and other logistics should not be a problem, Moscone said, noting that students are currently bused from RB to Patch with little problem to accommodate many community programs.

Transportation will not be a show-stopper to this initiative, Moscone said, adding that the ASG will also support sports activities through its Youth Services programs and other outlets on all installations.

Students in grades 7 and 8 will be allowed to continue participating in interscholastic sports provided there is space available and they can make it to the required practices, McIntire said.

Academic opportunities that are currently offered at PHS, such as video production and robotics, should be available at the new middle schools, and the curriculum will be similar, although it will follow the DoDEA middle school model and teachers will team teach, McIntire said.

Some high school credit courses, such as algebra and geometry, should continue to be offered, he said.

Working together

Representatives from the 6th ASG, U.S. European Command, DoDDS and DoDEA worked together to formulate the new middle school plan, McIntire said.

On Aug. 22, transition committee made up of teachers, parents and other community members will begin meeting to establish the new middle schools' curriculum, staffing, names and mascots, bussing routes and many other details. The committee will meet throughout the 2005/2006 school year in preparation for the opening of the new middle schools.

"It's going to work," McIntire said. "It's the right thing to do and it's going to be first class."

Renovations underway

In order to accommodate the new middle schools, renovations to Robinson Barracks and Böblingen Elementary schools will soon be underway, McIntire said. In addition, PHS will get a new gymnasium floor and padding along the walls and windows this summer.

Help SNAP keep
our installations safe.

Garmisch: 440-3618/civ. 08821-750-3618
Stuttgart: 430-5560/civ. 0711-680-5560

Career opportunities available in CID

Criminal Investigation Command looks to add agents

By Christine Castro

If you thought the closest you would ever get to becoming a crime scene investigator would be in your living room, on the edge of your chair attempting to solve mysteries on the hit television show, CSI – think again.

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is seeking qualified, motivated individuals who think they have what it takes to be a CID special agent. There are currently 200 available slots for new agents in more than 200 offices worldwide as a result of the current reshaping of the military.

Many people are familiar with CID as the division of the Army that handles felony cases, said Stuttgart Special Agent in Charge Kenneth Free. But, he said, many are not aware of what they actually do.

Training

Typically other law enforcement agencies need to call upon the assistance of another agency or division when they are in need of forensics or crime scene photography, Free said, but CID agents do not have to, because they are trained to do it all.

“[CID] training is some of the best in the world,” he said. CID agents are trained in virtually every area of law enforcement and investigative work – to include general crimes, crime scene photography, economic crimes, forensics, collection and presentation of evidence, narcotics and hostage situations.

Agents have the opportunity to advanced law enforcement training at the FBI National Academy, the Canadian Police College, and some have the chance to earn a master’s degree in Forensic Science at George Washington University.

CID is provided with some of the most technologically advanced equipment on the market, said Free. In other words, they have a lot of cool toys. “Some of the equipment we use is better than what they have in the private sector,” he said.

All of the training and experience that CID agents receive make them more marketable in other law enforcement agencies, Free said.

Application process

Interested applicants can contact their local CID office for a thorough application packet along with some additional requirements.

The special agent in charge will interview the applicants and forward the application – along with some additional requirements for review – to the command in Washington D.C..

Applicants are selected and assigned to a particular location based on qualifications and slot availability. The entire application and approval process could take six to eight months.

Civilians eligible

“Although many CID agents already have some type of military or civilian police background it is not a requirement to qualify and be accepted in to the Special Agent training program,” Deputy Chief of Staff for Support Master Sgt. Cynthia Fischer wrote in a recent U.S. Army “All Points Bulletin.”

CID offers a six-month internship program for those who have not been a military police officer for at least six months or a civilian police officer for at least a year.

The internship program also gives the recruit the opportunity to get a feel for what they would actually do as an agent and determine if the job is really for them, Free said.

Challenge & satisfaction

“To be a CID agent, you have to enjoy the job,” Free said. “It is not a nine to five job. The on-call duty agent is on call 24/7 or you could have to work for 12 to 24 hours straight.”

Although the job is demanding, he said, that is also part of the fun. “No two days are ever the same.”



Spc. William Montoya (55th Signal Company)

A CID Soldier marks evidence found while examining the remains of a home in Kosovo that was destroyed by a bomb.

As a CID agent, you have the opportunity “to see an investigation from start to finish – from [shortly after] the time occurred to the courts action,” Free said.

Even though kicking in doors, and analyzing the evidence of a crime scene can be a fun part of the job, the work does not stop there, he said.

Every action that an agent takes, has to be documented, which could add to hours of paperwork.

For more information about becoming a CID special agent call Kenneth Free at 421-2775 or Civ./0711-729-2775 or log on at www.cid.army.mil.

Financial scam targets used-car sellers

By Robert Szostek

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

There is a new scam making the rounds in Germany. It involves Americans selling their cars in the classified ad sections of newspapers like the Stars and Stripes.

This scam has been reported recently in Mannheim, Stuttgart and Frankfurt.

“Someone poses as a buyer, often by e-mail from a far-off country, and forwards a large cashier’s check to you for more than the asking price,” said Lt. Col. Carol A. McKinney, chief of Law Enforcement Operations at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal.

The buyer wants you to ship the car to his country, giving the excuse that the extra cash is for shipping and asks you to wire any excess amount back to him via a money transfer agency.

The check will eventually bounce, but this can take a long time.

If you have already shipped the car and wired the excess cash by then, the car and money are lost and remain untraceable.

There’s always some pretext – the buyer made a mistake, needs the money for shipping or whatever – but the end result is the same. The seller discovers

This scam has been reported recently in Mannheim, Stuttgart and Frankfurt.

that the certified check is worthless after sending the cash.

And sometimes the criminals are only after the excess cash, rather than the car.

Trust your instincts

The solution is to trust your gut – to a point. “There’s no foolproof way to tell the good guys from the bad guys, but if the deal sounds too good to be true you’re probably being taken for a ride,” McKinney stated.

Con men are usually good at what they do – the “con” is short for “confidence,” because they’re experts at inspiring it in their victims. But if your instincts tell you something’s wrong, trust them.

Also make sure any certified checks you’re offered are good. Get your bank’s toll-free number and call to ensure any check is legitimate and hasn’t been stopped.

Take precautions

Another popular scheme to dupe

car sellers involves fake escrow services. Legitimate escrow services act as middlemen, taking payment from buyers and then releasing the money to sellers once the items bought have been properly transferred.

Most car transactions go through without a hitch, but there is also the remote by real chance of being robbed or hurt. Private sales can present a seller with some risky situations.

Fears about getting into cars with strangers cause some sellers – a risky proposition – to just hand over the keys, but you really shouldn’t let the car out of your sight.

Both men and women should consider having a friend accompany them to any transaction, inspection or test drive. Some sellers take the additional precaution of meeting in a public place rather than at home.

For more information visit the National Crime Prevention Council Web site at www.ncpc.org/ncpc/ncpc/.

Avoid the scams

Banks recommend the following tips to help protect you from fraudulent offers:

- Plan the sale of your vehicle ahead of time so that you will not be in a situation where you will need to sell it right away.
- Note grammatical and typing errors. Many fraudulent offers or written correspondence are riddled with errors.
- If things don’t sound right, ask questions and get clarification. Obtain a second opinion.
- Be wary of distressing stories such potential buyers needing to rescind their offer due to a divorce or a death in the family, followed by a request to wire the funds back to them.
- Be leery prospective buyers who provide multiple addresses.
- Be aware that this scam is targeted at any large-ticket items and items requiring shipping costs of \$500 and above.
- Be conscientious of possible red flags. If it sounds too good to be true, it just may be.

Barcelona, Spain

'City of Wonder' inspires, entertains

Story & photos by Christine Castro

You don't have to walk into a museum to view 2000 years of Barcelona's culture and history. From the Gothic quarter to the popular shopping district surrounding La Rambla street, tourists from around the world are attracted by Barcelona's multi-century allure.

This Mediterranean city boasts something for everyone with its history, culture, art, shopping, beaches and fabulous cuisine. Be sure to come rested, because this cosmopolitan city dances full of life day and night.

Captivating entertainers

They may not be among the attractions more commonly referenced in tour guides and books, and they don't have personal brochures, but they may very well be the most popular attractions among tourists.

No, ladies, we are not talking about the multitudes of shoe stores. That comes later.

Rather, we are talking about the clowns, magicians, dancing skeletons, frogs that play the piano, tree dancers, acrobats, vampires and the list goes on – the street performers, of course.

The streets are crowded nightly as tourists stand by mesmerized by performers of nearly every form of art you can imagine. Not to potential "Apprentice" contestants – look out if Donald Trump finds out about these entrepreneurs.

The artists are quick to emphasize the fact that they perform their art for a living, and that they are not homeless beggars. However, many spectators gladly pay them for the smiles and laughter they provide.

Famous artists

For those who prefer more traditional forms of art, Barcelona is a museum of itself, displaying the works of famous artists such as Dali, Picasso, Miro, and many more in hotels, cathedrals, restaurants and artists museums.

One such artist, Antoni Gaudi, is known for many works. He dedicated 43 years of his life to one not so small piece – "La Segrada Familia," a cathedral that is reminiscent of the rise of 19th century Art Nouveau.

Its intrigue does not only come from its design. Although construction began in 1882, it remains unfinished to this day. In honor of Gaudi's tremendous contribution, he was buried beneath center of the cathedral.

Following Gaudi's death in 1926, several other artists were contracted to complete the work using Gaudi's original plans, only adding small personal touches of their own design. However, after the Civil War in 1936, a fire destroyed most of Gaudi's plans, causing construction to halt, not to be resumed until 1952.

The entrance of the cathedral displays traditional statues in Neo-Gothic design depicting the birth of Jesus Christ. As tourists walk through the enormous cathedral, many appear spellbound by the artist's portrayal of Jesus' life and the displayed works of the contributing artists.

Family fun

If fun is what you seek, Port Aventura, on the coast of Salou, is the place for the whole family.

About 30 minutes from Barcelona itself, the Universal Studios theme park is sure to bring laughter, screams, and excitement into your trip with thrilling roller coasters, fabulous shows and mouthwatering restaurants.

Don't forget to bring back a souvenir of their red-headed woodpecker for the little ones.

Shop 'til you drop

Okay ladies, now this is what you have been waiting for. If shopping is what you crave, Barcelona is the place to go.

However, you may want to save a little change, because if you decided to bring your favorite pair of heels along on this trip, your likely to have to visit the shoe doctor upon your return.

Barcelona boasts five kilometers of shops lining the streets carrying what appears to be anything anyone could want – with name brands such as Gucci, Loewe, Sfera, Mango, Vougue, Prada, Armani and ... if I provided a complete list, I might not have had room for the rest of the story.



This sculpture of a man grieving over the death of Jesus Christ, created by artist Joseph Subirachs, is located at the exit of 'La Segrada Familia'. The cathedral is famous for its design by artist Antoni Gaudi, who began working on the cathedral one year after the original architect, Francisco de Paula del Villar.



[Above] For those who doubt Elvis's enduring influence, an immense crowd was enamored by this puppet's performance of "Jailhouse Rock" on La Rambla Street.

[Left] Walking along the paths of the peaceful 'parc de la Ciutadella', tourists are often stunned by the appearance of a spectacular fountain adorned with Romanesque statues.

For more information about Barcelona visit www.barcelona.com.

On the road with Lance & Co.

'Le Tour' challenges, rewards spectators as well as riders

By Brandon Beach

Twenty-one stages. 2,241 miles. Across some of the most stunning countryside in France. Over mountains classified as "beyond category." The world's toughest bicycle race – the Tour de France – came to an end July 24 with champagne glasses and a final sprint down the fabled Champs-Élysées in Paris.

But the tour is more than "just" a sporting event. It is also a traveling carnival, a multimedia extravaganza, and an opportunity for even novice riders to pedal in the path of their heroes.

Cycling aficionados now must wait for the date that tour officials will unveil the full 2006 race schedule. Already announced several months ago is that Strasbourg will play host to next year's opening stage and second-stage start.

Located just 13 miles across the German border and an easy two-hour train ride from Stuttgart, Strasbourg is an ideal spot for fans to catch all the furious action of a time-trial format, where individual riders race against the clock through city streets.

Traveling with the Tour

If not planned correctly, a vacation to the Tour can leave a first-time spectator unsatisfied, squeezed behind a metal barricade watching a flurry of riders jostling to position themselves for that final sprint to stage victory.

In Karlsruhe (a one-hour train ride west of Stuttgart), I found myself four miles from the finish of the 142-mile seventh stage, walking away with a backpack full of caravan loot, a brief glimpse of Armstrong and company and the sound of spinning wheels and shifting gears still ringing in my ears.

Before I could truly absorb or even understand the scene, the riders had passed, and the road was empty. Later that night on the evening news, I learned that Australian Robbie McEwen had won the stage with a brilliant slingshot maneuver from the right side to take the sprint.

Fans interested in really getting close to the Tour take to the mountains, where the race is stripped down to its basic elements – two or three riders testing their physical limits against gravity. This is the place where a champion can emerge.

Armed with the official Tour magazine (available at most newsstands in English), a map of France, my road bike, tent, sleeping bag, camping mattress, energy bars, water bottles and bananas, I decided to travel to the French Alps and experience the Tour in another gear – one slower than the stage I witnessed in Karlsruhe.

To the 'Top of the Tour'

Each year, tour officials choose a "Top of the Tour" mountain to test a rider's ability to truly suffer. Last year, Alpe d'Huez, an eight-mile 3,707-foot climb with 21 grueling switchbacks, was host to an individual mountain time trial. On that day, Lance Armstrong gutted his nearest competitors and nearly broke the mountain's record, held by Italian rider Marco Pantani.

Col du Galibier, 8,750 feet and nicknamed the Mt. Olympus of the French Alps, was the highest climb of this year's tour. Since 1911, Galibier has hosted the Tour 53 times and wit-

With the crowd cheering "Allez. Allez. Bon Courage," I whimpered to the summit three and a half hours after my start in Saint-Michel, feeling for a brief moment as if I was a professional tour rider.

nessed some of its most dramatic finishes. It was on this climb in 1998 that Pantani, under cold temperatures and a steady downpour, attacked a suffering Jan Ullrich with three miles remaining to seize the stage win and crush any hope of Ullrich defending his crown for a second victory.

A pilgrimage to Galibier

The 107-mile 11th stage started July 13, 12:20 p.m., in the ski-resort town of Courchevel with an immediate 12-mile descent to the town of Moutiers and the start of two "beyond category" climbs – the Madeleine and Galibier – before finishing in Briançon.

With a half-baked idea, I arrived at the town of Saint-Michel-de-Maurienne (2,474 feet) at 8 a.m. on stage day to attempt my own climb to the Galibier summit (8,678 feet). Fans had driven the day before to stake claim to their piece of roadside property and front row seats to the Tour's most anticipated stage.

I had a quick café latte at a French patisserie, made several bike checks in the parking lot and stretched out the legs before jumping on the pedals and following the route signs (denoted by large yellow arrows) and the hundreds of other recreational cyclists up the mountain.

The fans were camped out in motor homes, tents, in and under cars directly alongside the tour route. Just before 9:30 a.m., some spectators were devouring an early-morning breakfast of eggs and coffee, while others played cards on fold-out tables.

Some had slept the entire night wrapped in sleeping bags in the front seat of their cars. Some were brushing their teeth, while others were painting the names of their favorite riders on the pavement.

In the Alps, the weather can greet you politely and then suddenly slap you in the face. A day that started with sunny skies and mild breezes turned overcast and biting cold at the six-mile mark before the summit.

Dark clouds charged over mountains tops, and a nasty shower erupted, turning my legs to instant Jello. Rain pelted my helmet and drained off my cheeks. The body groaned and cursed, and I shifted uncomfortably in my wet saddle. Then, it simply stopped, and the sun walked quietly back on stage as if a crime hadn't been committed moments before.

With the crowd cheering ecstatically "Allez. Allez. Bon Courage," I whimpered to the summit three and a half hours after my start in Saint-Michel, feeling for a brief moment as if I was a professional tour rider.

I took a quick photo in front of the sign marking the summit elevation in meters and paid respect to the monument of Henri Desgranges, the man credited with founding the Tour in 1903.



Baerbel Hoffman

[Above] Riders roar past cheering crowds near Pforzheim, Germany July 9.



Brandon Beach



Brandon Beach

[Above] Who says traveling with the Tour has to be all hard work? After biking to a prime viewing point, a spectator couple relax while waiting for the professional riders to come rolling by.

[Left] Some spectators ring cowbells to encourage the riders. A few spectators take the whole bovine thing way too far.

I descended three miles from the summit and found my front row seat next to a German family of four equipped with a green VW California van, satellite reception, a toilet that smelled of chemicals, sun shade and folding chairs. It was an ideal spot to nurse sore muscles, devour my final banana, guzzle some warm Magnesium-flavored water and wait for the Tour caravan.

A spectacle on wheels

The caravan is the Rose Bowl parade of the Tour, a traveling circus where sponsors attempt to create the most fantastic and visible "float," such as the French sports betting organization PMU with its oversized-horses galloping above a tiny Peugeot car.

A permanent fixture of the tour since 1930, the caravan arrives roughly one hour before the riders enter the scene and provides a much-needed break against the roadside waiting game. Polka-dotted cycling caps, key chains, umbrella hats, ponchos, cold beer (alcohol free), water bottles and daily newspapers, to name but a few, are tossed to lucky outstretched hands.

The tail-end of the caravan consists of the team cars such as Armstrong's Discovery Channel, strapped down with extra bikes and

wheels and loaded inside with high-tech computer technology to connect riders with up-to-the-minute information.

The caravan is that perfect appetizer to wet the palate before the main course building the tension before the crescendo. News about which rider or group has surged into the lead travels through the crowd from small hand-held radios and makeshift satellite TVs with tin-foiled antennas.

Pride and passion

T-Mobile rider Alexander Vinokourov attacked at the bottom of Madeleine and never relinquished his lead to seize the stage.

An hour after the caravan entertainment had passed, I caught sight of him as he emerged to cow bell cheers and whistles, off his saddle and pushing his pedals to the absolute limit. Armstrong dueling that day with his nearest competitors, Ullrich and Ivan Basso, and maintained control of the yellow jersey.

This year, a tour champion didn't emerge on the slopes of the Galibier (Armstrong accomplished that from the opening day time trial). The mountain did, however, place me right in the middle of the spectacle that the French simply call "Le Tour," and the passion that millions of fans share on the road.

‘Old Town’ at heart of Edinburgh’s celebration of city’s culture

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

How can you not love a city that dedicates a museum to writers and builds a monument to a dog? I didn’t travel to Edinburgh because of the Writer’s Museum or the statue of Greyfriars Bobby, but these two “discoveries,” I learned, were completely in keeping with the character of a city that celebrates its culture and cultivates a sense of the sublime.

A city of contrasts

The capital city of Scotland, Edinburgh is a study in contrasts. Described by one guide book as “venerable, dramatic ... cosmopolitan and cultured,” it also seems to take a perverse pride in its historic nickname of “Auld Reekie” (earned thanks to the sewage – and accompanying smells – that seeped for centuries out of its Old Town section).

Home to three universities, an 800 year-old castle and the largest arts festival in the world, Edinburgh seems content (joyous, even) to perpetually straddle the gap between past and future.

For example, as it has for centuries, the “Royal Mile” funnels visitors up a brick-laden street toward the towering Edinburgh Castle. The bricks remain, yet, unlike the day in 1724 when Daniel Defoe described the street as “the largest, longest and finest street ... not in Britain only, but in the World,” weary travelers can now find respite en route in a Starbucks, an Internet café, or any number of souvenir shops.

The Royal Mile and the castle are part of Edinburgh’s Old Town, a medieval area that dates to the early years of the previous millennium (and which, for the first six centuries or so of Edinburgh’s existence, comprised the entirety of the city).

On the other side of the Princes Street Gardens lies the New Town, a carefully-planned 200-year-old addition whose wide, straight-edged streets stand in stark contrast to the zig-zagging maze of narrow alleys that make up much of the Old Town. With the Gardens (and nearby bus stops and train station) as a starting point, visitors literally have the best of both worlds within walking distance.

The Old Town

Even in the brightest daylight, a walk through the Old Town evokes images of rough men, loose women, and the physical and metaphorical darkness in which they lived their presumably sordid lives.

This sense is reinforced by attractions such as Deacon Brodie’s Inn, which is named after an upstanding member of 18th century Edinburgh society who devoted his evenings to drinking, gambling and burglary (and whose double life may or may not have inspired fellow Edinburgher Robert Louis Stevenson to pen “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”). Another stop with a sinister connotation is the Last Drop Inn, which is named not for the emptying of a bottle, but for the gallows that once stood nearby.

Even the more uplifting aspects of the area are tinged with the maudlin. A few hundred meters up a winding street from the Last Drop stands the statue of Greyfriars Bobby, which was erected as lasting tribute to one dog’s faithfulness to his master. Unfortunately for Bobby, though, the majority of that faithfulness was exhibited post-mortem.

Bobby was the pet and working partner of police constable John Gray. When Gray died in 1858, Bobby began a 14-year vigil beside his grave, leaving the cemetery in Greyfriars Kirkyard only long enough to be fed by neighboring merchants.

Bobby became such a celebrity that he was given a special collar (which can now be viewed in the Huntly House museum) to ensure that he was not picked up as a stray. When he died, he was buried in a prominent location just inside the cemetery, and his statue was place a short walk away.

From past to present

Across the street from Bobby’s statue is the Museum of Scotland, a six-story structure that offers a sweeping overview of Scottish history (starting with the glaciers that carved the land and ending with a look at modern-day Scotland – though the 20th century section on Level 6 will be closed for renovation until 2007).

In addition to the expected artifacts and historical portraits, the museum also features multimedia displays, interactive exhibits and a hands-on section designed especially for children.

The history-minded tourist could easily dedicate an entire day to this museum, which boasts the added attraction of being free of charge.

Connected to the Museum of Scotland via a wide glass-domed hallway is the Royal Museum, which has displayed a variety of art and artifacts from around the world for more than a century. (As one guide book explained, the Museum of Scotland shows Scotland to the world, while the Royal Museum shows the world to Scotland). The Royal Museum also has no entrance fee – though particular exhibits (such as the current feature on “Nicholas and Alexandra: The Last Tsar and Tsarina”) may require the purchase of tickets.

Home to three universities, an ancient castle and the largest arts festival in the world, Edinburgh seems content (joyous, even) to perpetually straddle the gap between past and future.

For those who prefer their museums to be a bit more focused, the Writer’s Museum (in Lady Stair’s House, a few steps off the Royal Mile) is dedicated to the three great names in Edinburgh letters: Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Exhibits range from the professional (Burns’s writing desk) to the personal (Scott’s chess set) to the perhaps too personal (locks of hair from each).

A second-floor room features temporary exhibits of other individuals of local literary significance, and the Makar’s Court area outside the museum is paved with stones bearing inscriptions from a range of writers – though nothing yet from Edinburgh resident J.K. Rowling, who created her ubiquitous boy wizard and his companions in the city’s cafes.

In history’s footsteps

Tourists who prefer to “experience” history rather than merely view it will also be pleased with the range of opportunities available in Edinburgh.

The most popular destination for those who wish to follow in history’s footsteps is likely Edinburgh Castle, portions of which have overlooked the city since the 1100s. With its most recent upgrades having been made in the 1920s, the castle not only houses much of Edinburgh’s history, but also exemplifies the evolution of Scottish military architecture.

Highlights of the castle’s many attractions include St. Margaret’s Chapel (which may be the oldest building in all of Edinburgh), the National War Museum of Scotland, and the Honors of Scotland (a scepter dating to 1494, a Renaissance-era sword, and the Stone of Destiny, which many believe to have been used in coronation ceremonies for Scottish kings since the 800s).

Travelers who were touched by the story of Greyfriars Bobby will likely also be moved by the small, well manicured cemetery for soldiers’ dogs that lies near St. Margaret’s Chapel.

At the current exchange rate, the entrance fee of £8.50 will set U.S. residents back almost \$15 – all the more enticement to explore every nook of the “city within a city” that lies behind the castle walls.

Outside the castle, a number of walking tours take tourists through specific aspects of Edinburgh’s history. Participants in the Edinburgh Literary Pub Tour will be both educated and entertained by guides “Clart” and “McBain,” who traipse through various sites of historical significance whilst engaging in a spirited debate as to the true genesis of the city’s literary greatness.

(Not to give away too much, but McBain advocates for the nobler aspects of man’s – and woman’s – psyches, while Clart is convinced the truth likely lies inside bottles and brothels.)

Other tours promise glimpses into medieval life in the Old Town, information about the area’s more notable “Saints and Sinners” and potential encounters with the otherworldly inhabitants of city’s supposedly haunted regions.

Prepare to pay

“Free” is not a foreign word in Edinburgh – in addition to the museums mentioned above, the Royal Botanical Gardens and People’s Museum are among the attractions that charge no admission – but even the most cost-conscious traveler should be prepared to return home with a decidedly lighter wallet.

In addition to the inflated prices that are to be expected in large tourist-attracting cities, the dollar-to-pound exchange rate (1.74 to 1 on July 22) is decidedly unfriendly at the moment. Though down from a 2005 high of 1.92 to 1, the rate still means that most food, drinks, souvenirs and admission fees will be nearly twice as high as U.S. consumers are used to paying.

Searching the Internet for lodging that won’t break one’s budget is a good way to limit the fiscal damage – as is being willing to reside a bus-ride away from the main attractions. If five-star treatment (or, to be completely honest, two-star treatment) isn’t a priority, hostels abound in the city, and the University of Edinburgh also rents dorm rooms to travelers of all ages when school is not in session.

Making flight arrangements as early as possible (and being flexible with arrival and departure days) is another excellent way to reduce costs. For the most hardcore savers, RyanAir offers bargain-basement flights from Frankfurt (about two hours from Stuttgart) to Glasgow (about 45 minutes from Edinburgh).

Regardless of one’s budget, though, the charms and idiosyncracies of Edinburgh make the city a worthy destination – and promise to repay the visitor with a lifetime of memories.



Located at an intersection between the Museum of Scotland and the pub that shares its name, the statue of Greyfriars Bobby is one of Edinburgh’s most poignant tourist destinations. Dedicated to the memory of a dog who is buried in the cemetery in nearby Greyfriars Kirkyard, the memorial is a quite popular spot for visitors with cameras.

Edinburgh Online

Edinburgh: The Official Site
www.edinburgh.org

If you only have time to for one Web site, this is the place to be.

Highlights include a guide to the city and surrounding area, help finding lodging, and an extensive list of events and destinations.

Edinburgh City Council
www.edinburgh.gov.uk

Though geared more toward residents than tourists, this site nonetheless merits a look for an “insider’s” view of the city.

One recent article provided tips on traveling in the city during a bus drivers’ strike, and a “Leisure” section includes not only events but also a map to help find them.

Edinburgh Guide
www.edinburghguide.com

Whether you’re looking for a hotel room, a school or a job in Edinburgh, this site may be of assistance.

In addition to typical travel and tourism information, this site also offers insights into Edinburgh’s government, business and academic realms.

Edinburgh International Festival
www.eif.co.uk

Edinburgh Festival Fringe
www.edfringe.com

Both the official festival and the “fringe” (which is now actually the largest part of the festival itself) provide a wealth of information online for those who wish to join the masses at the world’s largest arts festival.

An annual extravaganza, this year’s festival is scheduled for Aug. 14 to Sept. 4.



[Above] Originally designed to keep interlopers out, the Edinburgh Castle is now a popular tourist draw, luring thousands to make the trek up the Royal Mile to explore the imposing structure and the treasures it contains.

[Right] Undaunted by the apparent neglect of the tourists in the background (who aren’t actually ignoring him, but are gathered around their guide) a street performer lights up his section of the sky.

[Far Right] Putting a local spin on his pitch for spare change, another street performer is the picture of traditional Edinburgh.



Awareness essential to staying safe

Proper preparation empowers travelers to spot the danger signs before crises occur

U.S. State Department
Bureau of Consular Affairs Release

Acts of terrorism are by design random and unpredictable, making it impossible to protect oneself absolutely. The best protection is to avoid travel to unsafe areas; however, personal awareness and vigilance are crucial to remaining safe or dealing with crises if they should arise.

Most terrorist attacks are the result of long and careful planning. Just as a car thief will first be attracted to an unlocked car with the key in the ignition, terrorists are looking for defenseless, easily accessible targets who follow predictable patterns. The following tips are excellent both when traveling abroad or when out and about closer to home.

Before you go

Let someone know what your travel plans are, and be sure to keep that person informed of any changes in your plans.

Make two photocopies of your passport identification page, airline tickets, driver's license and the credit cards that you plan to bring with you.

Leave one photocopy of this data with family or friends at home; pack the other separately from where you carry your valuables.

Pack an extra set of passport photos along with the photocopy of your passport information page to make replacement easier.

Instead of cash, bring travelers checks and one or two major credit cards.

Leave a copy of the serial numbers of your travelers' checks with a friend or relative at home. Carry your copy with you in a separate place and, as you cash the checks, cross them off the list.

Security through obscurity

To avoid being a target, dress conservatively and avoid the appearance of affluence.

Also, always try to travel light. You can move more quickly, will be more likely to have a free hand, and will also be less tired and less likely to set your luggage down.

On the road

Schedule direct flights if possible and avoid stops in high-risk airports or areas.

Try to minimize the time spent in the public area of an airport, which is a less protected area. Move quickly from the check-in counter to the secured areas. On arrival, leave the airport as soon as possible.

Keep an eye out for suspicious abandoned packages or briefcases. Report them to airport security or other authorities and leave the area promptly.

Be aware of what you discuss with strangers or what may be overheard by others, and avoid obvious terrorist targets such as clubs or attractions where Americans are known to congregate.

Remember: When you leave the United States, you are subject to the laws of any country you visit. Before you go, learn about the local laws and customs of your destinations and keep track of what is being reported in the media about recent developments in those countries.

For more information about travel safety call the 6th Area Support Group Security Office at 421-2133/civ. 0711-729-2133.

For general safety information call the 6th ASG Safety Office at 421-2752/civ. 0711-729-2752.

Travel Safety Information Online

CIA World Factbook

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

This site provides a comprehensive overview of the nations of the world (listed – conveniently enough – alphabetically from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe).

Data includes geography, economy, transportation, people and government.

Overseas Security Advisory Council

www.ds-osac.org

OSAC is a partnership designed to enhance cooperation between the U.S. Department of State, other government agencies and private organizations.

The site provides a wide range of information related to global security.

State Department Consular Affairs

www.travel.state.gov

This site includes a wealth of information for U.S. travelers heading abroad as well as for international citizens who wish to visit the United States.

Features include passport information and travel advisories.

White House Travel Handbook

www.whitehouse.gov/government/handbook/travel.html

Features for both domestic and international travelers include travel safety, student travel, country-specific handbooks and information on cultural exchange programs.

I steal purses
in bars and
restaurants.

I commit
identity theft
with copies of
credit card
receipts.

If only it were this simple ... Unfortunately, real criminals don't label themselves – or always look as menacing as they do in the movies. Staying safe when traveling – and, for that matter, when closer to home – requires a combination of common sense, continual vigilance and pre-departure preparation.



EUCOM, chapel groups unite in service *Joint project renovates activity room on Patch*

By Christine Castro

They called it serendipity – “people and things just came together at the right time,” said Col. John Zazworsky, from European Command’s directorate of Strategy, Policy and Assessments (ECJ5/8).

The community rooms used by the Chaplain’s Youth Group and Boy, Girl and Cub scouts on the second floor of building 2312 on Patch Barracks received a deep cleaning and cosmetic reconditioning – and some areas received a complete overhaul – during a community service project June 27 to 30.

With help from the 6th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works, the ECJ5/8 office coordinated a service project that resulted in a communitywide effort.

In keeping EUCOM Commander Gen. James Jones’s plan to improve the core values of services, the command held quarterly sessions, each with a new focus for improvement.

In a February session focused on services before self, the division chiefs were posed a challenge, asking if they would support a plan that allowed service members to take a couple of hours out of their work schedule in order to complete a community service project.

Taking action

It was at this meeting that Zazworsky voiced his belief that to improve on services required a tangible approach – it necessitated action.

He began brainstorming with colleagues in his office and with Maj. John Stevenson, ECJ8’s program budget officer, to identify a service project that would benefit a cross-section of the community.

After communicating with several sources, the community room on the second floor of building 2312 on Patch Barracks which served approximately 200 to 250 community members, was identified as being in need of a good cleaning and repainting. It was agreed upon that renovating this space would create a positive impact on the community.

After contacting DPW for assistance, they discovered that building 2312 was the perfect building with no plans for renovation in the near future.

Zazworsky was put in contact with John Graham, a youth leader with the 6th Area Support Group Chaplain’s Office, who also was in the process of organizing a project among his youth group members to recondition the group’s activity room as a team-building effort.

Volunteerism & support

However, the building proved to be in need of a lot more than a simple paint job. A challenge they overcame with the combined help from approximately 60 people, of which two-thirds were service members from the ECJ5/8 office, and the remaining were spouses and their children, and Scout families, according to Zazworsky.

“It was really a family event with a lot of camaraderie that strengthened the team. It was a really good collateral benefit – not the main goal,” said Zazworsky.

Upon prepping the walls for painting, Zazworsky said several other issues, some safety-related, were discovered – such as uncovered heating pipes and radiators encased in

‘It was really a family event with a lot of camaraderie that strengthened the team. It was a really good collateral benefit.’

Lt. Col. John Zazworsky
U.S. European Command

broken protective wood covers with chipped and peeling paint. Also, wires dangled from the ceiling in the community room, and several of the walls had holes as well as unused plastic or metal plates that were still attached to the wall after fixtures had been removed.

It was apparent the entire floor required much more work than planned, Zazworsky said. However, the volunteers wanted to make sure the job was done thoroughly so that community members could enjoy the space for years to come.

“We wanted to inspire other agencies to get involved [in community service] and take it to the next level and want to repair things [in the community],” said Stevenson.

Zazworsky and Stevenson enlisted the help of 6th ASG DPW Director Carl Pritchard and Gerhard Kappel of Total Maintenance Stuttgart.

Zazworsky said both men were very helpful, and took the project very seriously. Kappel offered his expertise and knowledge and surveyed the second floor project and stairwells, and mapped out the necessary work and supplies needed to complete the job.

DPW provided masonry experts to help with the necessary repairs and wiring, and contractors deep-cleaned the rooms. Zazworsky said Stuttgart’s Self-Help office provided about \$3,000 worth of supplies for the project.

Continuing projects

Although the initial project the directorate pledged is completed, Zazworsky and Stevenson pledged to continue to work throughout the summer with the Scout parents and DPW to repair areas of the facility that still need work.

Two other stairwells are slated to be repainted and the ECJ5/8 is working with DPW to replace a floor in one room that originally had torn pieces of carpet throughout. In addition, Stevenson said, the kitchen – which dated from the 60s to early 70s – that is used to serve lunches to the youth throughout the summer had cabinets that were falling apart and appliances that did not work.

Zazworsky’s group combined efforts with Graham’s youth group and removed all appliances and cabinetry from the kitchen, leaving only a refrigerator and repaired and repainted the walls and ceiling.

The chapel youth group will seek grants and donations in



courtesy Lt. Col. John Zazworsky



courtesy Lt. Col. John Zazworsky

Christine Castro

As demonstrated above, the project had its share of less-than-serious moments, but that didn’t seem to impact the quality of the improvement (documented in the “before” and “after” photos, below left and right, respectively)

an effort to replace the old kitchen as DPW continues to work on the design and funding issues.

“The goal is to turn it into an institutional kitchen scaled down to the current size so that the community will be able to use it for all kinds of events,” said Zazworsky.

Teamwork

“The teamwork from the volunteer organizations was important because there is a lot less space [for community events] than there was before, and much of it needs to be shared [among different organizations] – cooperation is key,” Zazworsky said.

“With a little volunteer effort and in combination with the 6th ASG, it can be a real community effort [to complete] those projects that did not quite make it to the level of funding [necessary],” he said.

Volunteerism and support was definitely the theme of the community project, Zazworsky said. The Stuttgart Commissary proved that there is more than one way to help, as it provided the volunteers with snacks, water and juices throughout their project.

“They even asked if we wanted more,” Stevenson said. “They were willing to provide us with more than what we needed.”

“It was pretty satisfying to see how everyone was involved from all the different organizations who came together to help,” Zazworsky said.



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Iraqi women advance through basic training

First females preparing to serve in nation's military

Story & photo by Sgt. Thomas Benoit
Army News Service

Breathing, squeezing the trigger and keeping the enemy in sight are just a few of the shooting techniques taught by 1st. Sgt. Amir Jabar Taleb of the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade, 6th Division, to some of the first female Soldiers inducted into the Iraqi Army.

For the first time in that nation's history, Iraqi leaders conducted an all-female basic training course. Twenty-seven female recruits have undergone intensive training to learn military skills.

"They learned how to use weapons, map reading and battle tactics to engage the enemy during combat," said Brig. Gen. Jaleel Khalaf Shawail, commanding general of the 1st Iraqi Army Bde., 6th Div. "And with the help of my American friends, this course has become successful. The Americans did not participate physically in the training, but observed."

Amir instructed the Soldiers about riot control and how to calm an angry crowd without losing control of the situation. Amir said the cadets performed almost flawlessly – and he said he was honored to be one of the first instructors to teach such an important class.

"An obstacle like inducting female Soldiers into their security force is a very difficult task," said Lt. Col. Mark Kerry, commander of Task Force Bengal of the 256th Combat Team. "Jaleel is trying to accommodate both the cultural sensibilities and the practicality of training these females."

The basic training academy is located on Camp Taji,

Their instructors described the female recruits as some of the bravest women in Iraq.

where Iraqi males are also brought into the security forces.

"The cadre at Camp Justice did not minimize or downplay the academic or physical training mandated by the curriculum," said Command Sgt. Maj. Hassan Abid Khadim, the senior enlisted noncommissioned officer of the 1st Iraqi Army Bde.

Instructors Amir and Sgt. 1st Class Mohamad Mohsen Shheib both described the female recruits as some of the bravest women in Iraq.

The brigade's success will be the template for the rest of the Iraqi Army and, inevitably, it will help out the entire country, Kerry said. The Iraqi women are fighting and defying cultural trends that are stacked against them, he added.

Many of the female Soldiers have lost their husbands in previous wars, Jaleel said.

"Even under these circumstances, with such a strain on raising a family, they are still brave and worry about their country," he said.

[Right] A female Iraqi military recruit shows her qualifying score to her fellow Soldiers at the firing range on Camp Justice.



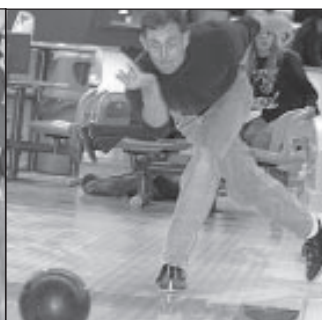
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2005 Army Europe Golf Championship

Darmstadt Soldier takes title after intense competition in Stuttgart

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Jeffrey Hallauer spent two-and-a-half days without reaching the top of the 2005 Army Europe Golf Championship leaderboard. But he got there when it counted, and now he gets to stay there for another whole year.

Hallauer, an Army staff sergeant with the Darmstadt-based 102nd Signal Battalion, earned his second consecutive Army Europe Open Division title July 21 courtesy of a stirring comeback on the final nine holes of the 54-hole tournament. Playing in the final group of the day, Hallauer covered the back nine of the Stuttgart Golf Course in an even-par 36 to overtake playing partners Eric Smith and Rugelio Renteria and claim his third crown in the past four years.

Smith, an Air Force staff sergeant stationed in Stuttgart, took second with a three-day total of 237 (two shots behind Hallauer), while Renteria fell to fourth after losing a third-place tiebreaker to Mike Stanley of Naples, Italy.

First place the hard way

Though Hallauer's comeback caught fire on the tournament's final holes, he'd been playing catch-up for the previous day and a half. After carding an anemic 10-over-par 83 on the first day of competition, Hallauer said he knew he couldn't afford many more mistakes.

"I thought I could win if I could go under par [on the second day]," he said. "And I was two-under after 16, then finished bogey, bogey." His 10-stroke improvement moved him to within one shot of the lead entering the final day.

Hallauer saved his best for last, carding his lowest nine-hole score of the tournament on the final back nine. His 36 featured two birdies (including the clincher on 18) – but perhaps most importantly, he played steadily while his opponents found trouble.

"I thought my heart was going to explode," said Smith, who kept the pressure on with birdies on 14 and 15. "But [that excitement] is why we do this."

A team on the course

Though Hallauer's name was alone on the top of the leaderboard, the effort to get him there was a true team effort.

He was accompanied on the course by his wife, Sally, who served not only as his caddie, but also his on-course motivator and confidante.

In addition to meeting the caddie's traditional mission of ensuring that the right club was in her player's hands, Sally Hallauer was also ready with words of inspiration after difficult holes and exuberant high-fives after more successful ones.

"She's just awesome," Hallauer said.

Three successful days

In addition to complimenting the play of his fellow golfers, Hallauer also had high praise for the Stuttgart course, which hosted the Army Europe tournament for the first time. "This was an awesome tournament," Hallauer said. "The course was in great shape. Marco [Spellacy, the course manager] and his crew did a fantastic job all week."

Joseph Moscone, deputy to the 6th Area Support Group commander, concurred with Hallauer's assessment.

"When you put on an event like this, things don't just happen by magic ... it's a total team effort," Moscone said during the post-tournament award ceremony. "I'd like to thank Marco and all the people at the golf course. When you hire the best, great things happen."

Additional winners

In addition to handing out plaques to the top three players in the open division, Moscone and 6th ASG Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez also presented awards to competitors in the senior (age 50 and above) and women's divisions.

Grafenwöhr's Earl Goins was the top senior, firing a 238 to finish 31 shots ahead of runner-up Celio Cedeno of Rota, Spain. Thomas Carter of Stuttgart placed third.

Stuttgart's Sue Hamilton, the lone entrant in the women's division, accepted her first-place plaque with a sense of humor. "It may not be said that I'm a great golfer," she said, "but I know good odds when I see them."



[Left] 2005 Army Europe Golf champion Jeffrey Hallauer is congratulated, accompanied, and – after his tournament-clinching putt – embraced by his wife and caddie, Sally.

[Right] Hallauer tees off on the final hole of the three-day competition, which was contested on the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim. Hallauer rallied from a deep deficit to take the lead on the tournament's final day, clinching his third Army Europe victory in four years with a birdie on the 18th green.

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